STATE OF NEW MEXICO
Taxation and Revenue Department
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Two Mexican Nationals & an Ecuadorian Arrested for Trying to Fraudulently Obtain New Mexico Driver's Licenses

SANTA FE – Taxation and Revenue Secretary Demesia Padilla today announced that State and Federal agents on Wednesday arrested three foreign nationals, including a broker, on charges of trying to obtain New Mexico driver's license by falsifying residential requirements.

Felipe Paez-Martinez, a Mexican national from Georgia, and Melchor Mayancele-Guallpa, an Ecuadorian from New York, came to Albuquerque to obtain their New Mexico driver's licenses. They had already paid at least $1,100 to obtain fraudulent residential documents from Manuel Calzadias-Valenz, a Mexican national living in Albuquerque.

Calzadias-Valenz, 27, admitted to investigators that he has been assisting foreign nationals living outside the State with obtaining New Mexico driver's licenses by providing them with false residency documentation for a fee of $ 1,000 to $1,200. Investigation into Calzadias-Valenz's scheme is ongoing.

Paez-Martinez, 39, and Mayancele-Guallpa, 38, claimed to be residents of New Mexico, but had arrived in Albuquerque the day before their appointments on Wednesday and were planning on leaving New Mexico after they successfully obtained their driver's licenses.

All three men have been taken into custody by the New Mexico State Police. This case was jointly investigated by the New Mexico State Police, the United States Border Patrol and the Tax Fraud Investigations Unit of the Taxation and Revenue Department.

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